

**For U.S. forces  
serving abroad**

# Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

Eight pages

## Cuts in gulf force mulled

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Senior administration officials have begun considering whether to reduce U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf, but they remain undecided as they weigh conflicting concerns about keeping the pressure on Iraq while relieving the strain on Pentagon operations and budgets.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Tuesday that President Clinton was expected to make a decision on the size of the U.S. troop presence within "the next couple of weeks." Other officials reported that the subject had been taken up by the president's national security team at meetings last week and Tuesday, with no resolution.

U.S. forces in the gulf have remained at peak levels of about 36,000 troops since February, when Iraq averted the threat of U.S. airstrikes and renewed a commitment to unrestricted access by United Nations weapons inspectors. Although Iraq has made good on its promise to let inspectors into presidential sites previously closed to them, U.N. authorities still fault Baghdad for failing to provide sufficient information.

The U.N. Security Council decided on Monday to leave sanctions in place against Iraq based on a report from U.N. arms inspectors that it still had not complied with resolutions following the 1991 Persian Gulf War that required the scrapping of all its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs. Under such circumstances, U.S. officials worry that a troop withdrawal might be interpreted as a sign of flagging U.S. concern.

An administration official close to White House deliberations said senior policy-making officials are wary of shrinking the gulf force within the next several weeks.

## Mustard gas found in Iraq, U.N. says

By New York Times

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N.'s chief arms inspector for Iraq said Tuesday that experts discovered active mustard gas last month in artillery shells found at an Iraqi ammunitions depot in 1996, raising new questions about more than 500 to 700 similar shells that are still unaccounted for in Iraq.

The inspector, Richard Butler, said at a news conference Tuesday that this case, which he described to the Security Council on Monday, illustrated the recurrent problems encountered by his U.N. Special Commission since it was charged in 1991 with eliminating Iraq's prohibited weapons and the means to manufacture them.

Mustard gas is a chemical agent that blisters the skin and lungs, burns the eyes and can cause cancers in the mouth, throat and respiratory tract. Commission officials said Tuesday that they long had suspected that the 155-millimeter shells that Iraq was known to have and that remain unaccounted for were likely to have been filled with mustard gas, which is stored as a viscous liquid.

Earlier this month, a Russian chemical-weapons expert on the commission, Igor

Mitrokhin, went to Iraq to try to learn more about the shells and hundreds of unaccounted-for canisters, bombs and rockets thought to have been designed to deliver chemical and biological weapons.

Butler refused Tuesday to give details of Mitrokhin's findings, or of the ongoing investigation into the shells with the still-active gas. Another commission official said the shells had been sealed at an undisclosed location while a decision was being made about how to destroy them.

At least four of the 155-millimeter shells, with imported casings, were found in 1996 at an ammunition depot in central Iraq and were duly cataloged. The shells were not tested until March of this year, in the face of Iraqi opposition, after Iraq argued that they were no longer active and that more fieldwork in this area would be pointless.

On Tuesday, Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Said al-Sahaf, said again at a news conference here that Iraq destroyed all its prohibited weapons in 1991. Carrying on an endless search for banned arms while prolonging the sanctions against Iraq is an "unprecedented injustice to the Iraqi people," he said.

## Senate balks at NATO limits

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Senate emphatically rejected a move to limit the United States' share of the cost of NATO expansion as it began voting Tuesday on amendments to an agreement admitting Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

The 76-24 vote against a proposal to bar the United States from paying more than 25 percent of all costs

of NATO enlargement, including U.S. subsidies extending beyond the "common costs" of NATO members, appeared to underscore predictions by Senate leaders that the pact will be overwhelmingly approved.

A two-thirds vote is required for U.S. ratification of the alliance's enlargement, marking its first incorporation of former Warsaw Pact enemies, a

move embraced by President Clinton and key Republican Senate leaders.

The administration took encouragement from the first vote. "The fact that we were able to turn back the first amendment with 25 votes to spare was a very strong sign of support," said Jeremy Rosner, who is spearheading the ratification effort for the White House and State Department.

# Military patients seeking access to fed health plan

By Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — Retired members of the armed services and advocates for families of active-duty personnel pleaded Tuesday for the right to leave the military medical system and enroll in the federal employees' health care plan.

Witnesses at hearings by a House subcommittee, including a retired master sergeant and the wife of a brigadier general, described the Defense Department's "Tricare" program as a system that hinders the delivery of medical care it is supposed to provide.

In place of Tricare, the witnesses have been pressing for access to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, the medical insurance program for federal employees and retirees, members of Congress and political appointees.

They want the Defense Department to

pay the portion of FEHBP premiums now covered by the federal government for civilian employees and retirees.

"I think it (Tricare) is an insult to the men and women who fought and bled to protect the freedom of this country," said Boyd Simmons, a retired master sergeant and veteran of two tours in Vietnam.

The Pentagon's top health official, also testifying before the House Government and Oversight subcommittee on civil service, defended Tricare, saying the program is not yet three years old and start-up problems were being fixed.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense Gary A. Christopherson warned that allowing civilian beneficiaries of military medicine to opt for FEHBP would cost the Defense Department up to \$1 billion a year and lead to "dismantling the military medical care system."

## Psst! Wanna buy a grenade?

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — First there was giggling, then raucous laughter. A deafening blast and the tinkling sound of a thousand shards of glass. Thirty seconds of silence. Then screams — and sirens.

Khalid Lemqaddem was only 8 years old; his best friend, Othman Zarouali, only 10. It was April 1, and the two school chums were playing on the side-

walk with the grenade they found in a park.

The grenade, authorities say, came from the former Yugoslavia, whose war surplus has become the latest source of light arms and explosives for militants, gang members and petty street criminals in Western Europe.

"There's a rising tide of this weaponry, and law enforcement seems to think it can't do anything about

it," said Daniel Plesch, director of the British American Security Information Council, which advises governments on small-arms trafficking. "Central and Eastern Europe are awash in this stuff."

Dutch authorities say the number of grenades circulating on the black market has increased fourteenfold since the 1995 signing of Dayton accords ending Bosnia's war.

# Napalm disposal finalists back out

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Three companies that offered to get rid of Vietnam-era napalm no longer want the job, a spokesman for the Navy's main disposal contractor said.

They were among four bidders selected by the Navy for a contract to dispose of 23 million pounds of napalm stored in Fallbrook, about 50 miles north of San Diego.

The fourth, Pollution Control Industries in East Chicago, Ind., bowed out of the \$1.7 million contract earlier this month in the face of political and community pressure.

Robin Yocum, a spokesman for Battelle Memorial Institute's laboratory in Richland, Wash., which contracts with the Navy, declined to say why the companies no longer sought the contract.

The company names were not released, but sources told The San Diego Union-Tribune they are located in Texas, Missouri and Tennessee.

The Navy was reviewing its options about how to dispose of the napalm, which has been stored outdoors in aluminum canisters at the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station since the 1970s, said Jeanne Light, a Navy spokeswoman in San Diego. It likely will be a few weeks before a decision is made, she said.

PCI planned to recycle the napalm into fuel for cement kilns in the Midwest. A 12,000-gallon shipment was hastily sent to PCI on a train on April 11, but it was forced to turn around in Kansas City after the company said it would refuse to accept it.

The shipment is now in a storage yard at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station in the Mojave Desert.

## Army choppers in doubt after arrest

By Newsday

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — The Army is evaluating the accuracy of its main attack helicopter in hitting targets with rocket and machine-gun fire after the arrest of a former Long Island executive on charges that he knowingly supplied defective weapons-testing systems to the government, according to officials.

Walter Tress, 64, the chief executive of Photonics, which moved from Hauppauge to Oakland, N.J., in December, was arraigned Monday on fraud charges in federal district court in Uniondale. Tress allegedly ordered the falsification of records showing the state-of-the-art,

\$10.6 million laser systems built to test the accuracy of the Apache helicopters' machine guns and rockets gave false readings, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Cornacchia.

"We are talking about being off target between 1 meter to 1,000 meters, which doesn't help if you're trying to hit an enemy tank," said one source familiar with the investigation, conducted by the Inspector General's Office of the Pentagon and the FBI.

Officials are particularly concerned about the accuracy of the Apaches assigned to Bosnia, which is the most likely place they might see combat.

## Stripes

Stripes is produced by the editorial staff of The European Stars and Stripes at Darmstadt, Germany, from European and Pacific Stars and Stripes staff stories and wire service reports. The Internet address is <http://www.slite.osd.mil/>

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## Tobacco firm to cooperate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cigarette-maker Liggett & Myers' agreement to cooperate in a criminal investigation of the tobacco industry without getting immunity from prosecution shows that federal prosecutors are developing a strong case, observers say.

And Liggett's defection Tuesday also could undermine a campaign by the rest of the industry to water down a bill in Congress that would charge the industry half a trillion dollars for sick smokers and for luring teens to cigarettes.

Liggett, which markets L&M, Chesterfield, Eve and Lark cigarettes in the United States, agreed to tell prosecutors whether the industry hid evidence of smoking's health damage from Congress and regulators, manipulated nicotine levels and targeted children as future buyers.

Liggett also agreed to describe the control of research by the Council for Tobacco Research and the involvement of lawyers in directing research or crafting false or misleading statements by any tobacco company to Congress, the Food and Drug Administration and American consumers, the Justice Department said.

Tobacco executives told Congress in 1994 they had no knowledge of nicotine's addictive qualities or of health damage from smoking.

The company's decision could save it huge legal fees that arise in fighting any federal criminal probe, but the Justice Department's rejection of Liggett's plea for immunity was seen by Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass., as "an indication that the Justice Department has a very strong case."

The company agreed to supply "evidence of crimes and fraud."

## Bill would restrict U.S. cigarette marketing abroad

By Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — Surrounded by posters depicting U.S. cigarette promotions in Hong Kong, Poland and Cambodia, Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, said Tuesday that he will press again this year for federal laws restricting overseas marketing of U.S. tobacco products.

"Any comprehensive legislation that passes this Congress must stop U.S. tobacco companies from hooking children around the world to their deadly products," he said.

## Horror stories abound about IRS atrocities

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service is beset by management corruption and misconduct that goes unpunished by the agency even when allegations are proven, a Senate hearing was told by key witnesses Tuesday.

The agency's managers have engaged in documented cases of sexual harassment, theft of government property and illegal harassment of taxpayers but were not held accountable, according to probes conducted by the Treasury Department's inspector general and testimony from a senior executive of the IRS office of general counsel.

In one case, a senior IRS executive stole several luxury vehicles — perhaps as many as 20 — that had been impounded from taxpayers, but he was not caught until after he retired, said Harry Patsalides, deputy assistant inspector general for the Treasury Department. Patsalides also said the retiree paid restitution of only

\$20,000 for the fleet.

The session Tuesday was the first of four days of hearings this week into IRS corruption and abuse, and follows similar disclosures at the hearings last fall. Those earlier hearings made the IRS a prime target for political attacks and spurred legislation to restructure the agency and curtail some of its sweeping powers.

The House overwhelmingly approved its version of an IRS reform bill last year; the Senate is scheduled to take up similar legislation next week.

Tuesday's testimony evoked further outrage among members of the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. William V. Roth, R-Del., which has been looking into problems at the agency for more than a year.

Roth said it was clear to him that the agency not only is abusive toward taxpayers but also has serious integrity problems affecting its internal operations, particularly its powerful criminal investigation division.

## Bill tied to U.N. dues faces veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton has no choice but to veto a bill that conditions payments to the United Nations on new restrictions on overseas abortions, a spokesman says.

Senate Republican leaders insist that a veto could kill U.N. funds for the year.

On a 51-49 vote, the

Senate on Tuesday gave final congressional approval to a State Department bill that includes \$926 million in back U.N. dues — dues that are long delinquent.

But the measure includes a provision, attached by House conservatives, that would bar any of the money from being used, even indirectly, to

support international family-planning organizations that advocate abortion rights.

Clinton had threatened to veto any legislation containing such an abortion restriction, and immediately after the Senate vote White House spokesman Barry Toiv said the president would make good on his threat.

packages and advertisements in foreign markets to carry the same health warnings that are required throughout the United States.

The legislation also would prohibit U.S. embassy staff members and trade representatives from helping promote the interests of U.S. tobacco companies abroad.

Doggett won passage of an amendment last year that prohibited the use of any federal money to help tobacco companies sell their products overseas.

# Fed predicts \$50 billion cost to fix 2000 glitch

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve predicts reprogramming, updating and fixing computers to process data next millennium will cost U.S. businesses approximately \$50 billion.

Fortune 500 companies alone have told the Securities and Exchange Commission they anticipate spending \$11 billion dealing with the so-called Year 2000 problem, Fed Gov. Edward Kelly told the Senate Commerce Committee Tuesday.

While the problem has "contributed to the spectacular growth recently in this country's computer hardware and software industries" as companies scramble to replace their aging computers, the long-term net effect of the problem will be slightly negative, Kelly said.

The problem involves computers that use two digits to identify years, such as 98 for 1998. Without a fix, their inability to distinguish 2000 from 1900 could cause programs to fail and create wide-

spread disruptions in commercial, financial and government transactions.

"I suspect the majority of Year 2000 expenditures should be viewed as increased outlays for maintenance of existing systems, which are additional costs to business," Kelly said. "Other than the very valuable ability to maintain its operations into the year 2000, few quantifiable benefits accrue to the firm and overall productivity gains are reduced by extra hours devoted to reprogramming and testing."

He said predictions that the glitch will induce a deep recession are "probably a stretch," but added, "I do not think that we shall escape unaffected."

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott announced the formation of a new Senate committee to examine both private and government efforts to make the needed technological fixes and deal in other ways with the problem.

## Economy boosts Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — The strong economy is helping Social Security, a new report says, but lawmakers fear it won't be enough to solve the cash crunch coming when baby boomers retire.

"Social Security will soon be swamped by a demographic tidal wave that can't be stopped," said Rep. Bill Archer, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which oversees the retirement program.

Social Security's trust-

ees in their annual report released Tuesday predicted three extra years of full pension benefits for retiring baby boomers before a potential cash shortfall in 2032.

Many Republican lawmakers are calling for a new retirement system, based on personal accounts invested privately by workers. Democrats in Congress said the slightly more optimistic forecast for Social Security shows how far modest changes can go toward solving the

program's problems.

"Some in Congress want to use a shortfall at least three decades in the future as an excuse to invest the Social Security trust funds in volatile equity markets," said House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt. "Clearly, time remains to have a reasoned discussion."

Social Security, in fact, collects more payroll taxes than needed to pay benefits to today's retirees. The surpluses are invested in government bonds.

## HUD: Affordable rent getting harder

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record 5.3 million low-income American families are unable to find affordable housing, according to a report from Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

"The report makes it clear that the federal government must significantly enhance its efforts to create more affordable housing opportunities," Cuomo said Tuesday. "The strong economy that has brought prosperity to millions of Ameri-

cans has not reduced the affordable housing crisis for millions of others."

Cuomo said the 5.3 million low-income households represent some 12.5 million people who are eligible for HUD-subsidized housing but can't get it because of lack of financing. The report defined the low-income households as those with a yearly income less than \$13,590 for a family of four and less than \$10,872 for a family of two.

## Clinton nominates Mexico ambassador

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — Hoping to fill a key diplomatic post that's been vacant for 10 months, President Clinton on Tuesday nominated career Foreign Service officer Jeffrey Davidow to become U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.

By appointing Davidow, who has served as ambassador to Zambia and Venezuela and is now assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, Clinton hopes to avoid the political controversy that thwarted his nomination last summer of former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld.

Weld's nomination fell victim to opposition from within his own Republican party, when Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, R-N.C., refused to call a committee vote on the nomination.

### Fire kills 8 at rest home

ARLINGTON, Wash. — A blaze at a home for the elderly went through a fire door that had been propped open with a concrete block and spread thick smoke through the 90-year-old building, killing eight residents.

At least 25 others were taken to the hospital, mostly for smoke inhalation, after Monday night's fire at Arlington Manor.

The fire probably was caused by a resident who was smoking in violation of the rules, Mayor Bob Kraski said.

### Fla. drives to honor Reagan

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — State lawmakers passed bills Tuesday to rename Florida's Turnpike after Ronald Reagan.

The House plan, which passed 94-18, is similar to a bill the Senate passed unanimously earlier in the day to rename the toll road north of Miami as the Ronald Reagan Turnpike.

### 2 teens killed at school

POMONA, Calif. — Two teen-age boys playing basketball at an elementary school were shot and killed and a third was wounded Tuesday afternoon, police said.

The shootings at Philadelphia Elementary School happened shortly after 5 p.m., police Cpl. William Tucker said. The names and exact ages of the victims were not immediately available, nor was the wounded boy's condition.

There were no immediate suspects.

It also was unknown whether any schoolchildren were on campus at the time.

# Albright signals push to boost ties with China

BEIJING (AP) — Despite “some differences” on human rights, trade barriers and technology deals, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright assured China today that the Clinton administration intends to develop a warmer relationship for the 21st century.

Opening two days of talks designed mostly to set up President Clinton's state visit here in June, Albright placed a far greater emphasis on U.S. cooperation with the world's

most populous nation than on what her government views as the dark side of China's domestic and foreign policies.

The United States and China already have moved “well down the road toward a constructive, strategic relationship,” she said to the smiling approval of Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan.

“Progress has been made as compared to the past,” Tang said, reflecting on the gradual easing of tensions since Chinese

troops cracked down on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in 1989, killing hundreds.

Albright's two-day trip is keyed to setting up the summit meeting Clinton will hold with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

The focus of the summit, Albright said, will be “to anchor our relationship.”

The two nations have “a great deal in common and still have some differences,” she said.

## ‘Marriage penalty’ tax targeted

By Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — Intent on delivering tax relief to married couples, a group of Republican lawmakers on Tuesday proposed increasing the standard tax deduction available to couples and tweaking the federal tax bracket that covers most two-income couples.

The proposal — backed in the Senate by Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C. — is the simplest of three plans offered this year to relieve the “marriage penalty” — the higher tax rate that applies to the combined income of two working spouses.

The biggest drawback to all of the proposals is the price tag of \$28 billion to \$35 billion a year. Among the co-sponsors touting the plan Tuesday, only Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind., offered sugges-

tions of where Congress might make up the lost tax revenue, saying that projected budget surpluses or further reductions in welfare spending might be sources.

Even so, the sponsors insisted they would deliver tax relief to couples.

“Both houses (of Congress) have said this is our top priority,” Hutchison said Tuesday. “However we do it, we are going to do it. It is a commitment.”

The commitment also reflects increased pressure on congressional Republicans from the Christian Coalition and other conservative groups that have pushed to repeal the marriage penalty since 1995.

“It's unfair, it's un-family, and it must be ended this year,” said Randy Tate, executive director of the Christian Coalition.

## Day-care worker? Expect low pay

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A five-city survey of day-care centers paints a picture of an industry operating at the margins of viability, where workers' real wages have remained virtually stagnant for a decade, leaving the typical worker with an annual salary of \$12,800, the federal poverty level for a family of three.

And while staff turnover in day-care centers has gone down over the past five years, the 30 percent annual departure rate remains alarmingly high in an industry that shapes young minds. Of the day-care centers surveyed, 20 percent had lost

at least half their teaching staff in the past year.

At a time when day-care centers are experiencing unprecedented growth, the study released Tuesday by the Center for the Child Care Workforce recommends that in new federal and state initiatives, officials should devote more attention and set aside more money to raise wages and safeguard quality.

The study's authors noted that extending tax breaks for families, an approach favored by many Republicans, would provide little incentive to day-care centers to pay their workers better.

## Land mine kills 1, hurts 2 in Bosnia

From wire reports

SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina — One civilian was killed and two NATO soldiers injured in a mine blast, NATO officials said Tuesday.

In response to a countrywide amnesty for explosive devices kept at homes since the war, a civilian brought an anti-tank and several anti-personnel mines to the NATO base in the western Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza.

Two NATO military policemen were handling a box filled with the explosives when the mines went off, killing the civilian and injuring the two, said Maj. Peter Clarke, a NATO spokesman.

The two wounded soldiers were taken to the NATO medical facility at the Ilidza base and are in stable condition, Clarke said. The identity of the two soldiers and the civilian have not been released.

Senate confirms West

WASHINGTON — The Senate confirmed former Army Secretary Togo D. West's nomination Tuesday to be secretary of veterans affairs.

West has been serving as acting secretary of veterans affairs since Jan. 2. President Clinton nominated him for the job in December.

West replaces Jesse Brown, who resigned July 1 from the helm of an agency that serves 25 million Americans.

A longtime Pentagon lawyer and lobbyist for the Northrop Corp. when Clinton tapped him for Army secretary in 1993, West was recently at the center of a controversy over allegations that Democrats awarded Arlington National Cemetery burial plots to party donors.

The reports turned out to be inaccurate.

English-only law shot down

LOS ANGELES — The Arizona Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that a 1988 law requiring state and local government business to be conducted in English was unconstitutional.

Arizona was one of the 23 states from Arkansas to Wyoming that had passed measures in the late 1980s and early 1990s making English the official language of the state.

Most of measures were little more than symbolic, but Arizona's was by far the most restrictive, at least on paper. It prohibited an elected official, for example, from speaking to his Navajo constituents in their native tongue while on state or local business.

## Make a wish, and Aladdin is no more

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Aladdin Hotel-Casino, once the epitome of the city's flash and pizzazz, went out in style Monday night, making its exit in a fiery implosion witnessed by thousands on the Las Vegas Strip.

Charges placed strategically throughout the 17-story building caused it to fold neatly to the ground, sending a dust cloud 300 feet into the air.

"It was unbelievable," said Irene Springgay of Chandler, Ariz., who watched the spectacle from a rooftop parking lot across from the hotel. "It was there one minute and gone the next."

It took only seconds for the 860 charges of dynamite to level the 32-year-old building that had been a haven for mob figures and a hang-out for entertainment's elite. It was the fifth implosion spectacle here since 1993.

Before the implosion, crews combed the deserted shell of the building where Elvis Presley and Priscilla were married, where Wayne Newton held sway as an owner and a performer, and where mob figures from Detroit, St. Louis and Tokyo once shared in the action.

## 'The Big Hit' lives up to its name at theaters

### From wire reports

LOS ANGELES — The new murder story *The Big Hit* bumped *City of Angels* out of the top spot at the box office, while the other new films in national release flopped.

*Tarzan and the Lost City* and *Two Girls and a Guy* failed to generate solid business in their opening weekend, according to figures released Monday. In a limited debut in slightly more than 100 locations, *Sliding Doors* opened strongly.

*The Object of My Affection* and *Paulie* performed moderately well in their second weekends, but *Major League III: Back to the Minors* floundered. The re-released *Scream 2* finished in the Top 10.

*Titanic* took in \$4.9 million to boost its total to a record \$560.6 million.

### 'Outer Limits' producer dies

LOS ANGELES — Leslie Stevens, a prolific writer, director and producer whose successes spanned more than four decades, from the Broadway play *Marriage-Go-Round* to such television series as *McCloud* and the reprised *Outer Limits*, has died. He was 74.

Stevens died Friday at UCLA Medical Center from complications of a blood clot on the heart, his wife, Shakti Chen Stevens, announced Monday.

His output was immense, and he created successful productions on stage, film and television with equal ease.

**Faces  
'n'  
places**

Stevens' *Marriage-Go-Round* in the 1950s starred Charles Boyer and Claudette Colbert, and he later adapted the play into a successful 1960 motion picture starring James Mason and Susan Hayward. Stevens' most recent film, *Gordy*, which he wrote and produced in 1994, was praised by a Los Angeles Times reviewer as a fine family movie.

Along the way, Stevens wrote such films as *The Left-Handed Gun* starring Paul Newman in 1958, *Heroes Island* starring James Mason in 1962, *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* in 1979, *Sheena* in 1984 and *Return to the Blue Lagoon* in 1991.

### A true rags-to-riches story

WASHINGTON — The classic dream of entrepreneurial America came true in Landover, Md. Monday: Jeong Kim, a Korean-born immigrant who once worked the night shift at 7-Eleven to put himself through school, sold his company — for \$1 billion.

Under the deal, \$510 million is to go to Kim, the rest to the other shareholders of Yurie Systems Inc., a maker of advanced communications equipment. His share would put him on Fortune magazine's list of the 100 richest high-tech executives in the country.

"I had always felt I wasn't the smartest," the 37-year-old Kim said in a telephone interview Monday. So he compensated by working impossibly long hours — 120 a week early on, he said.

## In The Stars and Stripes

### 10 YEARS AGO

April 29, 1988 — The Baltimore Orioles set an American League record by losing their first 21 games of the season. The record came at the hands of the Minnesota Twins.

### 20 YEARS AGO

April 29, 1978 — Outspoken Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub agreed to retire from the Army after his second public blast at President Carter's policies.

### 30 YEARS AGO

April 29, 1968 — The gremlin-plagued F-111A produced criticism from two senators, who termed the swing-wing jet a "suicide plane" and urged its recall from combat in Vietnam.

### 40 YEARS AGO

April 29, 1958 — The U.S. Court of Appeals rejected Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus' appeal from an injunction banning his use of state National Guard troops to keep black students out of Little Rock high schools.

### 50 YEARS AGO

April 29, 1948 — White House hopeful Harold Stassen followed up victories in Nebraska and Wisconsin by winning Pennsylvania's Republican presidential primary.

## 'Ragtime' tops list of musical nominees

NEW YORK (AP) — *Ragtime* and *The Lion King* led the way for the annual Drama Desk nominations, with both landing nominations for best musical.

*Ragtime*, a lavish retelling of E.L. Doctorow's novel of turn-of-the-century America, received 14 nominations Monday. *The Lion King*, a stage version of the Disney animated film, received 12.

Also nominated for best musical were *High Society*, *Forever Tango* and an off-Broadway musical, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. The Drama Desk, an organization of New York theater critics and journalists, includes both Broadway and off-Broadway productions in its awards honoring the best of the 1997-98 New York theater season.



# Big Unit finally gets win

By Associated Press

Randy Johnson ended a lousy April on a positive note.

The Big Unit pitched seven strong innings for his first victory of the season as the Seattle Mariners beat the Kansas City Royals 5-1 Tuesday night.

"This is the kind of game I can build on," Johnson said. "I know the hitters aren't going to feel sorry for me the way I've been pitching, so I need to go out and bury some people."

Johnson (1-1) gave up five hits, struck out nine and walked four in his first start since serving a three-game suspension for throwing at Cleveland's Kenny Lofton on April 15.

In other games, it was Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 3; Detroit 7, Boston 5; Anaheim 6, Baltimore 5; Toronto 5, New York 2; Texas 7, Minnesota 2; and Cleveland 4, Chicago 1.

## Athletics 4, Devil Rays 3

Rickey Henderson and Ryan Christensen hit back-to-back home runs as the visiting Oakland Athletics beat the slumping Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

## Tigers 7, Red Sox 5

The Detroit Tigers pounded Pedro Martinez and avoided setting a record for their worst start ever with a win at Fen-

way Park.

Martinez left after six innings with the game tied 4-4.

## Angels 6, Orioles 5

Jason Dickson earned his first win since August and Cecil Fielder homered as the Anaheim Angels beat the slumping Baltimore Orioles for their sixth straight victory.

## Blue Jays 5, Yankees 2

Tony Fernandez lined a three-run double and Ed Sprague hit a two-run homer as the Toronto Blue Jays became the first visiting team to win at Yankee Stadium this season.

## Rangers 7, Twins 2

Juan Gonzalez set a major league record for RBIs in April and Ivan Rodriguez had three hits as Texas won at Minnesota.

Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning off Eddie Guardado. Gonzalez has 13 RBIs in his last five games, giving him 35 this month and 36 this season.

## Indians 4, White Sox 1

Omar Vizquel hit a go-ahead, two-out RBI single in the ninth and Charles Nagy pitched eight strong innings as Cleveland won at Chicago.

Nagy (3-1) allowed just three hits to help Cleveland snap a three-game losing streak.

# Nomo double trouble for L.A.

By Associated Press

Hideo Nomo's fastball is fine, and so is his swing.

Nomo hit his first major-league homer and pitched a three-hitter Tuesday night, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-3 win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Nomo (2-3) struck out a season-high 11 in pitching his second straight complete game after the shortest outing of his career. He held the Brewers to just one run until Eric Owens hit a two-run, two-out homer in the ninth.

In his last start against the Brewers, Nomo pitched a three-hitter at Milwaukee, but lost to Jose Mercedes and the Brewers 2-1. He fell behind early on Tuesday as Jeromy Burnitz led off the second with his eighth homer.

But Nomo then retired 15 straight.

Elsewhere in the NL, it was: San Diego 7, Chicago 3; Houston 4, New York 3 in 10 innings; Philadelphia 11, Cincinnati 8, in 10 innings; Colorado 8, Florida 7; San Francisco 2, Pittsburgh 1; and Atlanta 12,



Arizona 2.

## Padres 7, Cubs 3

At San Diego, Tony Gwynn capped his eighth career five-hit game with a home run and scored three times as San Diego ended a two-game losing streak.

## Astros 4, Mets 3, 10 innings

At Houston, New York closer John Franco failed to protect a ninth-inning lead for the second straight day against Houston.

## Phillies 11, Reds 8, 10 innings

At Cincinnati, Kevin Jordan hit a pinch three-run homer in the 10th as Philadelphia broke a six-game road losing streak.

## Rockies 8, Marlins 7

At Denver, Neifi Perez had three hits and three RBIs, and Dante Bichette had four hits for Colorado.

## Giants 2, Pirates 1

At San Francisco, Shawn Estes (1-4) outdueled Francisco Cordova (3-2) with 6 1-3 innings of two-hit pitching.

## Braves 12, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Tom Glavine (4-0) scattered three hits over seven innings as the Braves improved to 5-0 vs. Arizona.

# Prankster finds the joke's on him

From wire reports

CINCINNATI — Jack McKeon, who loves pulling pranks on the Cincinnati Reds' front office and coaches, got some payback on Tuesday.

About 3 1/2 hours before a game against the Philadelphia Phillies, McKeon was in the manager's office talking to his coaches when stadium security officers entered and told him he was under arrest.

The charges: smoking in a public place (McKeon loves cigars) and two unpaid parking tickets.

Moments later, McKeon was led out of his office in handcuffs. He was put in a car, driven around the block and then returned to Cinergy Field after the officers told him that the club's general manager had set up the prank.

"They said, 'You've been had by Jim Bowden,'" McKeon said.

Bowden and the coaches were waiting for McKeon when he returned to his office. McKeon's nameplate had been removed from the door, replaced by bench coach Denis Menke's name. Menke sat in the manager's chair.

They erupted when he walked into the room.

## Baseball notes

• Dave Stieb's comeback took another step forward Tuesday night even though the 40-year-old former

Toronto Blue Jays right-hander was charged with Syracuse's 1-0 loss to Rochester in Triple A action.

Stieb, trying to come back after six years of retirement, threw only 78 pitches, 53 for strikes, in throwing a complete game. He allowed three hits and one walk and struck out three.

• Seattle outfielder Jay Buhner underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday and will be sidelined for at least six weeks.

• Boston Red Sox left-hander Steve Avery, who has not pitched in more than a week, has accepted an option to Triple A Pawtucket.

Avery (9.64 ERA in nine games) will remain with Pawtucket the next 19 days without losing major league service time. If a player remains in the minors 20 days or more, he loses service time.



## Blackhawks give head coach the ax

### From wire reports

CHICAGO — Craig Hartsburg was fired Tuesday as coach of the Chicago Blackhawks after the team missed the Stanley Cup playoffs for the first time since 1969.

General manager Bob Murray, the man who fired Hartsburg, said the coach wasn't the only one at fault.

"I think he did everything he possibly could. I don't think there's anything left in the bag for him to bring," Murray said.

### Swimmer may face life ban

SYDNEY, Australia — Triple Olympic gold medalist Michelle Smith could face a life ban over the alleged tampering of a drugs test, world swimming's honorary secretary Gunnar Werner said Wednesday.

Werner said the alleged tampering was discovered by a laboratory in the Netherlands after Smith, 28, gave a urine sample in January.

"We suspect it is a manipulation but we don't know for sure," Werner said Wednesday.

Werner described the matter as "disappointing for our sport" and said it was up to Smith to seek the testing of a B sample.

He would not elaborate on the manner of the alleged tampering but said it was the first such case he knew of in international swimming.

Werner said the case was in the hands of FINA's doping panel but confirmed Smith would face a life ban if a charge of tampering was proven.

### Pistons retain head coach

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Even though the Pistons lost more than they won, the aggressive play of the NBA team was enough for Detroit to rehire Alvin Gentry as coach.

"This guy put us in a position to win night in and night out," guard Joe Dumars said. "I think Alvin provided us with a very good atmosphere around here."

Detroit missed the playoffs and finished 16-21 under Gentry, who took over Feb. 2 after the firing of Doug Collins.

Yet despite their woes, the Pistons played hard, with eight of Gentry's losses coming by two points or less, and four coming in overtime. Gentry also led the Pistons to victories over playoff teams Chicago, Indiana, Miami, San Antonio and Atlanta.

# Loss puts Sonics on brink

### By Associated Press

The Minnesota Timberwolves achieved another playoff first against the Seattle SuperSonics, who have been in this spot many times before.

The Wolves, who won a playoff game for the first time in franchise history Sunday, won for the first time in the playoffs at home Tuesday night, showing surprising poise and confidence in defeating the playoff-tested Sonics 98-90.

One more victory, either Thursday night at Minneapolis or Sunday back at Seattle, and the Wolves will have their first series triumph. Minnesota leads the best-of-5 series 2-1.

"It's amazing to be in the situation we're in," said Anthony Peeler, who led the Wolves with a career playoff-best 20 points. "But we have to close it out on Thursday."

The Pacific Division-champion Sonics trailed Phoenix 2-1 in the first round last year before winning the last two games, and they became the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 8 seed when they lost to Denver in 1994.

Elsewhere Tuesday night, Miami won 91-85 at New York to take a 2-1 lead; At-



lanta won for the first time in three games with a 96-64 rout of Charlotte; and Portland also avoided a three-game sweep with a 99-94 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

### Heat 91, Knicks 85

Despite scoring seven points on 3-for-13 shooting, Alonzo Mourning saved Miami defensively against New York.

Mourning blocked a pair of shots, forced a traveling call and won a jump ball on four consecutive possessions late in the game to kill the Knicks' chances.

Voshon Lenard scored 28 points, all in the first three quarters, and Tim Hardaway added 27.

### Hawks 96, Hornets 64

Atlanta, after blowing double-figure leads to lose each of the first two games, limited Charlotte to the lowest playoff point total in NBA history.

The Hornets, who still lead the best-of-5 series 2-1, tied the record for fewest points set by Portland in a 1996 postseason game at Utah and equaled by Orlando against Miami last year.

### Trail Blazers 99, Lakers 94

Damon Stoudamire scored nine of his 18 points in a fourth-quarter surge as Portland overcame Shaquille O'Neal's 36-point, 16-rebound performance to beat Los Angeles.

# Ottawa stuns New Jersey again

### By Associated Press

The San Jose Sharks picked a good time to win their first game in overtime this season. The New Jersey Devils had better find a way to win sometime or their season will be over.

"It's like we're playing with fire," Devils coach Jacques Lemaire said after a 4-3 loss Tuesday night in Ottawa put the Eastern Conference's top-seeded team one game away from playoff elimination.

The eighth-seeded Senators, who finished 24 points behind the Devils in the regular season, hold a stunning 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 series and can advance to the second round with a victory at New Jersey in Game 5 Thursday night.

The Sharks, meanwhile, evened up their Western Conference series at 2-2 by beating the Stars 1-0 in overtime.

Elsewhere Tuesday, it was Washington 3, Boston 0 in the Eastern Conference, and Colorado 3, Edmonton 1 and Detroit 4, Phoenix 2 in the Western Conference.

### Senators 4, Devils 3

Daniel Alfredsson scored three goals as



the unheralded Senators put the favored Devils on the brink of elimination.

New Jersey almost came back in the game's final minutes after trailing 4-1, scoring twice to terrify the capacity crowd of 18,500 screaming fans at the Corel Centre.

### Sharks 1, Stars 0, OT

Andrei Zyuzin's goal with 6:31 gone in overtime led the Sharks over the Stars. Zyuzin took a pass from Bernie Nicholls and sent a hard shot past Stars goaltender Ed Belfour.

### Capitals 3, Bruins 0

Olaf Kolzig stopped 38 shots for his first career playoff shutout and former Bruin Adam Oates scored twice as the Capitals beat Boston to take a 3-1 lead.

### Avalanche 3, Oilers 1

Claude Lemieux continued his postseason heroics, scoring his third goal of the NHL playoffs to power the Avalanche over the Oilers. Colorado took a 3-1 lead.

### Red Wings 4, Coyotes 2

Igor Larionov, Vyacheslav Kozlov and Jamie Macoun scored second-period goals as the Red Wings regained home ice advantage by beating the Coyotes.